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box 41 fd. 2

New York Oct. 21st 1845.

President Brigham Young & Council:-

Dear brethren, I received ^a communication from a council of brethren, sanctioned by you, relative to the obtaining of six barreled pistols for self defence (while journeying in western wilds) I immediately took active measures to obtain them & the present prospect is good I think I shall obtain several hundred dollars for that purpose. The six inch ~~barreled~~ pistols can be obtained at retail for 12 dollars; the wholesale price is ten dollars but by agreeing to take some 30 or 40 they can be obtained at nine & one half dollars as soon as I have raised the most of the funds that can be raised, I shall make the purchase. and now have between one and two hundred dollars tithing subject to your order; tithing comes in very slow since the exertions that were made for the canvass; The recent troubles in the West have put new life & zeal into the saints in the East; they are very anxious to assist all they can, & to gether westward [ho!] I saw an article in a Cincinnati paper that Wm Smith had left Nauvoo & was writing an "expose" &c. I was rather inclined to believe it. You have no doubt received my letter from Peterboro, N. H., enclosing a very black suspicious letter from Wm to J. C. Little. ~~and~~ You will pardon me for intruding another enclosed in this from Wm ^{to Bro.} David Rogers; this was also written by

the same Apostate spirit. In this, written from Galena, he has portrayed the corruptions of his heart.

Tell P. P. Pratt that Francis Bennett his wife's half brother is now sitting by the side of me in the prophet office his health has not been very good he sends his respects to his relatives & says that he wishes he was there with them he would like to hear from them very much.

The celebrated Robert Owen has been to visit me several times he calls almost every day I have been endeavoring to persuade him to rent our houses and lands in Ill, and he has quite a notion of so doing, he will let me know more about it in a few days, he thinks of locating the Owenites at Nauvoo; ~~he thinks some~~ of visiting Nauvoo this fall. ~~The Mr.~~ Farnham the Author of several works on Oregon, California, &c. has been to visit me a number of times, I have just this moment had an interview with him. He starts in about one week for California and ~~manifestly~~ ^{apparently} feels ~~very~~ anxious to have us locate in that country & professes to be willing to render ^{us} any assistance in his power. But I thought in my heart that we have had enough of Gentile assistance & that the time has nearly arrived for us to assist ourselves. I have just had a letter from Phil. & expected they would raise several hundred dollars

for pistols

^ but what was my surprise when I found that 30 dollars was the whole amount they had raised. Bro. Brauman has just returned from Boston: ~~They~~ had raised upwards of one hundred dollars for pistols there. [Bro. Little of Peterboro writes that he will use every exertion in N. H. to raise funds for that purpose]. Bro. Brauman thinks it will be difficult to take his printing establishment and go to California unless he goes away dishonorably without paying debts. If he could sell he could pay his debts. He feels very anxious to go and is willing to do any thing he is counseled. He says that the church perhaps would consider it wisdom to buy his establishment & still keep up the paper.

[Bro. Snow of Boston is very anxious to ^{can} turn home he has been pleading with me a long time to let him go. I should have complied with his wishes if there had been any suitable person to leave in his room]. I have not had an opportunity of visiting Phil. as yet. Perhaps you may consider it wisdom to send two faithful Elders to preside one in Phil. another in Boston. Bro. ^{Walker} Snow's pleadings ^{to go home} are almost irresistible, I believe that I will give ^{him} permission I hope that it will meet with your approbation for I wish to do right. If Wm. Smith comes into the Eastern countries without your counsel I shall take a decided stand against him unless you counsel me to the contrary.

Oct. 21st 1845
Orson Pratt
President Young & Council.

concerning Wm. Smith
and pro securing pistols.
Copied in History Compiler
R.L.C.

Oct. 21. 1845

Orson Pratt

to H. C. Kimball

Heber C. Kimball,

Warren,

Hancock Co.,

Illinois

[Oct 21 1845]

Dear brethren, since I heard of ~~your~~ persecutions & resolutions to leave Nauvoo in the spring I can hardly contain myself. I want to fly upon the wings of the wind & be with you when you go I want to go. where you stop, I want to stop. brethren, give me counsel on this matter. Can I go with you in the spring? If so, is it my privilege to return this fall? Count me worthy to receive counsel on these important items. Should my feelings get the upper hand of me & I start forthwith for Nauvoo I hope you will forgive me.

Brethren, I am willing to abide your counsel in all things. I wrote but a few days since to P. P. P. which ^{letter} I presume you have seen. I remain dear brethren your everlast-
friend & fellow laborer

Orson Pratt.

To B. Young & Counsel

P. P. My love & good wishes to my family & all who may enquire after my welfare C. P.

Bro Rogers wishes you to keep the letters he received from Wm & not expose his (Bro. R's.) name unless it is necessary C. P.

St Louis, Nov. 20th 1852.

Dear Bro. Young:-

I am happy to inform you that the most of the elders have safely arrived in this city. Our journey across the plains was very pleasant & agreeable. Although our company consisted of upwards of 80 persons, we had no murmurings — no fault finding — no quarrels — no contentions — no cursing & swearing, but all was perfect peace & harmony. The camp was called together night & morning, for singing & prayers. Meetings were held almost every evening — the gift & power of the Holy Ghost rested upon all, and all enjoyed a power of utterance, & wisdom, & the spirit of prophecy to great measure. None were sick — none were afflicted in any manner with ^{the} exception of sore feet which arose from much foot traveling. The Lord preserved our animals, so that they neither died, nor met with any accident, nor strayed from us. We were ~~not~~ ^{neither} troubled by Indians, nor white men. In the Buffalo country we obtained, without difficulty, an abundance of meat, which lasted till near the states. The waggons & teams were disposed of in the frontiers at a very good advantage. A number of the elders took steam-boat passage for Pittsburgh some 5 days since among whom were Elders O. & D. Spencer & D. Jones. About 20 Elders came in from the Mo River on the "Clara" last evening, all in good health & spirits. I had the pleasure of preaching three times to about 800 cabin passengers on the "El Paso," through

the faith of the brethren, the spirit of God rested upon me mightily, & I gave forth my testimony with much boldness: I think that a good impression was made, but it is doubtful whether they will profit by it. Wickedness & crime appear to be on the increase. The Devil is, indeed, exerting his power. Many large & popular papers are being published, devoted to the super-natural spiritual developments. The spirits are not only napping, but they seize upon their media & force them to write their revelations. Poetry & the most eloquent & sublime effusions are being revealed by the spirits in all parts of the land. In almost every school & family are to be found persons, old & young under the influence of these invisible powers. Chairs, tables, and other objects are made to move & dance around as so many living beings: & little school children amuse themselves during intermission by raising desks, books, benches, &c. by this invisible power. Thus the power of the devil is increasing upon the land to a fearful extent. The blind, & sick, & lame are being healed by the spirits, & the whole U.S. are wondering after the beast, so much so, that the message of heaven, revealed by Joseph the Seer, is far in the shade, in their estimation. Well did God say, that he would send them strong delusion, & suffer them same to be established by signs & great wonders, that the people might be damned who reject the truth.

Charles B. Thomson is publishing a monthly paper in which many revelations are printed, purported to be revealed by an unknown personage, calling himself ⁱⁿ "Baneemy" which you will at once recognize as one of the fictitious names, which Joseph substituted for the real names in certain

revelations in the Book of Covenants, Thomson is sending out his teachers, & they have already ^{introduced} ~~organized~~ many scores, in different parts, into their organization. Their committee, consisting of Wm Marks & others, have, I understand, located their place of gathering near Kanawville.

When the Trentland edition of the Book of Cov. was arranged for the printer, it was considered best to substitute fictitious names to for the real names contained in certain revelations relative to a stewardship on firm; & this was done that their creditors in Cairnhamoch (New York) should not take advantage of this church firm; But now, as the firm no longer exists, and the members of it are mostly dead either temporally or spiritually, Would it not be wisdom to publish in our next edition the real names of places, things, & persons as they are contained in the original manuscripts? This will not only expose Charles B Thomson's organization, but will be a great satisfaction to the saints. The sections containing these fictitious names, are as follows:— 76. 87. 94. 97. 99. 102. If you should think proper to have the real names restored, I should be pleased to have brother Bullock, or some one, copy from the original manuscripts the real names & send them by letter to me. Washington city. The most of these names I recollect, but some I have forgotten. I rejoice greatly in the mission you have given me, & hope that I may perform the duties of the same with honor to the cause. I have already written about 80 pages of manu-

script on "The Peopling of Worlds," &c. I expect
to write much more on this great subject. I hope
to issue the first No. of The Seer in January.

Yours in the Covenant of Peace. Orson Pratt

To Pres^t Brigham Young,

Pres^t B. Young.

Salt Lake.

arrived at St. Louis
wants leave to finish the true name
in place of "Seer" &c.

Orson Pratt
to
B. Young

Nov 20 1852

D. Pratt

to

B. Young

Nov. 20 1852

arrived at St. Louis

wants leave to find the true names
in place of B. Young &c.

Free P. Young.
Last Lake

P. S. Charles B
Thompson on the
"Banemysites" are
making great many
converts at the Bluffs
and elsewhere. He is
deceiving the people by
using the fictitious
name of "Banemy" in
the book of Covenants.

I wrote to you at St Louis to send to me the real names
contained in the manuscript, & I would publish them in the
next edition of the book of Covenants, and this will put
a stop to his impostures. I can recollect most of the real
names, but not all.

Washington, D. C. Dec. 31st 1852.

bro. Young :-

I have, through the goodness of
God, arrived in this city, where I have been for upwards of

P. S. Charles B. Thompson on the "Baneemy"ites are making great many converts at the Bluffs and elsewhere. He is deceiving the people by naming the fictitious name of "Baneemy" in the book of Covenants.

I wrote to you at St Louis to send to me the real names contained in the manuscript, & I would publish them in the next edition of the book of Covenants, and this will put a stop to his impostures. I can recollect most of the real names, but not all.

Washington, D. C. Dec. 31st 1852.

bro. Young:-

I have, through the goodness of

God, arrived in this city, where I have been for upwards of 2 weeks. I did not see Bro. Barnhisel for some 4 or 5 days after my arrival, as he was absent at New York. I obtained the passports for the names of those which were sent with me & forwarded them to their destination. The first No. of The Seer has been in circulation now about one week.

I sent a copy to each of the editors, publishing papers in Washington; also to the New York Herald, Tribune, St Louis Republican, &c. None of them, as I can learn, have, as yet, published the revelation, although several papers have made some editorial remarks, (of course unfavorable,) respecting it, and also concerning my arguments in support of the same.

But no one has, as yet, attempted to disprove ^{my} article on the constitutionality of the "Plurality Doctrine." Indeed all the arguments that this generation seem capable of using against our doctrines, ^{are} to cry them down as delusion. I am anxiously waiting to hear something from the press, either favorable or unfavorable; for cold indifference is something that I very much dislike, yet such a state of feeling in regard to this

Dec. 31 1852

about 10 13 young arrival in Washington D.C.

doctrine, may all be for the best - the Lord's will be done.
I have tried to get subscribers for the Seer wherever I could
hear of any saints; but, as yet, I have only obtained a
little less than 200 East of the Rocky Mountains. I
have taken the Seer to seven different book Stores and
periodical depots in this city and left them for sale on
commission, but I have not heard of even one copy
being sold. In order to call the attention of the people
I had large hand bills about 2 feet square handsomely
printed on good paper to be posted up in front of the
book stores; many are so prejudiced that they would be
ashamed to have such a bill before their door; while
other booksellers, after reading the Seer refused to offer
them for sale and requested me to take them away.
and the people generally dare not enquire for a Mormon
paper, because they are ashamed so to do. Brother
Bernhisel put a few books of Mormon into a book
store, and I expect the most of them would lay there
till they would rot before the Gentiles would
be seen buying them. I rented for three months
a place for meetings in "Temperance Hall" where
I preach every Wednesday evening and three times
every Sabbath. The meetings have been very well
attended, although the first two meetings only one lady dare
make ~~their~~^{her} appearance, but finding that they were not

harmes, the Ladies begin to turn out, as well as the gentleman.
The power of the Spirit has been upon me, and by the
appearance of the people's countenances I should judge
that many are convicted of the truth, whether they ^{will} ever
muster courage enough to obey or not. It cost me
about \$20 to advertize my ^{meetings} ~~meetings~~ ^{through} the papers & by hand
bills; After preaching 4 times I called for a collection
to defray the expenses of the Hall, & received from
a crowded Hall about ninety Cents. What is termed
respectable board in this city is about \$10 or \$12 dollars
per week. The printing of the Levee - the rent of a Hall -
the printing of advertisements - board, & washing, will
bring me nearly \$1000 in debt at the end of one
year, unless I should get 1000 more subscribers which
there ~~are~~ ^{are} no prospects of at present. But do not think I
am discouraged, for I do greatly rejoice in the mission
you have given me, and will sound the alarm among
this nation, by word of mouth and by publishing, whether
they will hear or forbear: and I verily believe with
all my heart that the Lord will build up a ch-
urch of the saints by my hands here in Washington,
and that I shall see the fruits of my labors among
this nation in years to come. My soul ~~longs~~ longs for
the salvation of the people, and I cry unto the Lord
continually by day & by night that he will give me
power to bring many unto repentance. Bro. Bernhied

is working in his mild way, and doing much good. He ~~is trying~~ has been trying for a long time to get some appropriations for Utah, & thought that there was a prospect this present session; but he feels discouraged now, because of the open publication of the revelation. I have reasoned much with him & tried to show him that he had nothing to fear - that now was the time, and the best time, for declaring boldly our sentiments in regard to plurality, and if we lost any appropriations by it, let them be lost. He, with much entreaty, endeavored to dissuade me from my purpose in circulating these things among the members of Congress until towards the close of the session; but your counsel came fresh to my mind, and the Spirit whispered go ahead, now is the time; The Seer is being gradually circulated among Congress, and one member has, without my solicitation, subscribed for the Seer, to be paid out of the public funds for contingent expenses. As each member is permitted to take 20 different newspapers at public expense, I endeavored to have the Dr. speak to the boys or waiters in Congress and have them take a few of the papers and solicit subscriptions from the members on the public expense: but he was too timid or fearful to undertake a work of that magnitude; I told him, then, that I should apply to some other members to do what he refused doing; this, however, was with the best of feelings; for I really believe that the Dr.

does just as well as his timidity will let him; I love the Dr. for his integrity, and gentleness of manners, and think that, in that respect, he is calculated to exercise an excellent influence among the members of congress, and among all others with whom he may be associated. Mr A. W. Babbitt is in the city, and he tells me that is going to Utah next season, should he offer himself as a candidate for congress, I will humbly express my opinion, that he would not do one half the good that the Dr. would. I think that by re-electing ~~the~~ Bro. Bernhisel, and instructing him to break through his timidity, he will be the means of doing us much good; at least, he will not do us any harm, and that is a great thing to be considered. I am sorry to say, that it is not within the power of Bro. Bernhisel, as he tells me, to furnish me, by loan, any funds for the printing of the Book of Mormon, book of Covenants, & Hymn books. Should it be your will that I should draw the funds from the Liverpool office, to accomplish this object, please signify the same by letter. If I can ~~procure~~ ^{loan} the funds from any other source, I will go ahead with the work. I called in to see the President, soon after I arrived, he appears to be a very candid sociable man. I am expecting to call on the President to-morrow which is new years in

company with the Dr.⁶ As I am publishing the
plurality doctrine in the Seer, I shall probably
defer publishing my pamphlet, entitled the "Peopling
of Worlds," until spring, when I think I will
step over to Liverpool and publish it, and also
another work, which will be very interesting, namely,
the narrative of Mother Smith, giving the genealogy
of ~~the~~ Joseph, back for seven generations, and a
statements of many facts, visions, dreams, and in-
cidents, connected with the finding & translating of the
plates, the rise of the church &c. These items have
never before been published, and I think that they
will do much good both to the church & the world.
These manuscripts I purchased of Bro. Babbitt, and
am to pay him by the first of June next. I shall
probably not be absent from America, only about 6
or eight weeks. I have sent the Seer to
Joseph Smith - to Emma, & to Mr Bideman. I
have sent one to the President, and many other
copies have been distributed among the great ones
of Washington. Capt Stansbury is very favorable
in his report in regard to our people. Lieutenant
Garrison's "History of the Mormons" is any thing but
truth; the most of it is a shameful batch of falsehoods
only fit to rank with "Howe's Mormonism Unveiled"

Issued in the Seer to

Bro. on Draft.

Dear Bro. Young:--

I was doing that which
is required at my hands
On Sunday evenings after
I have finished preaching
I endeavor to pray after
the pattern of the priests
and I believe that
the prayers of the
quorums are answer-
ed with great bless-
ings upon my head
yours in the Cov-
enant.
Orson Pratt

P.S. The whole number of subscribers
through the U.S. for the Seer is a
little over two hundred of which
St. Louis furnishes 164.

Washington, D. C.

Jan. 30th, 1853.

I received your letter, dated in
October, expressing a request for me to hasten the printing of the
Book of Mormon, book of Covenants, and Hymn books. I immediate-
ly proceeded to New York and obtained the estimates of several
printers and book binders. I find that book binding is much more
expensive in New York than in England. Printing about the
same with the same quality of paper. Stereotyping is more
than double the ~~cost~~ English price. Such paper as is contained in
the last English Edition of the book of Mormon cannot be obtained
in N. York without going to a much greater expence than in England.
In bringing the stereotype plates from England duties must be paid upon
them according to their valuation in this country. Moreover I was
told by some of the printers that the English stereotyping would have
to be remodelled or shaved before they could use them to advantage
here. After carefully comparing the lowest estimates which I obtained,
including the quality of paper and the expense of the transportation
of the stereotype plates and the duties on the same, with the English
prices, I am persuaded that there would be nothing gained by getting
the job done in this country. There is a drawback on books

Dear Bro. Young, If you have any counsel for me, I can assure you that it will be gratefully
received. I endeavor to
live just as faithful as I
can. And I call upon the
Lord continually to direct
me in all things. My heart
is joyful in the Lord although
the people reject my testimony.
for I feel as though
I was doing that which
is required at my hands
On Sunday evenings after
I have finished preaching
I endeavor to pray after
the pattern of the priests
and I believe that
the prayers of the
quorums are answer-
ed with great bless-
ings upon my head
yours in the Cov-
enant.
Orson Pratt

or in other words, a certain per centage which the English
custom houses refund on all books sent out of that country.
what this per centage is I have forgotten although I received the
benefit of it, when I shipped the ~~seven~~ thousand volumes
of my Works from that country. The printing and binding
can be done in England and the ^{books} be transported to this country
and the duties paid on the same, as cheap, if not cheaper, than
to have it done in this country. The cheapest estimate for
binding the hymn book in sheep imitation which I obtained
was 9 cents, the same binding is done in Liverpool for $3\frac{1}{4}$
pence or $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents which would make 250 dollars difference
in an edition of 10000. Another binder gave his estimate at
11 cents, and another at 13 cents for the hymn book. And taking
all things into consideration, I have concluded to get both printing
and binding done in England and ship them to New Orleans
and St Louis, and receive the benefit of the draw back in
England and pay the duties in this country. By taking this
course, I am in hopes to have the whole 30000 in St. Louis
ready to cross the plains in the spring of 1854. I shall write
immediately to S. W. Richards to set the printer at work at
the hymn book, reserving the job of the other two books until
I can make arrangements personally as I expect to go to England
sometime in the spring. Just before I left Utah I wrote
to the office at Liverpool to send me a supply of books, pamph-
lets, periodicals, &c. I have, through the mail received the

invoice with a statement that the books were shipped on the 2nd of November on the ship "Intrepid;" three months have passed and nothing has been heard of the ship. The wholesale value of the books amounted to upwards of seven hundred dollars. I hope the books are not lost, and yet if they were in this country, they would not before the Gentiles would buy them. "The Seer" has been placed in several of the principal book stores and periodical depots in this city and several dollars spent in advertizing them; in the course of six weeks some of the stores sold none; some sold two or 3; others a few more; among the whole between one and two dollars worth were sold. Several Book stores would not take ~~the~~ No. 2 Dr Bernhisel placed a few books of Mormon in one of the principal book stores of the city. These I advertize in my public meetings; and I think it quite doubtful whether over one or two could be sold in a whole year. If the Books, pamphlets, &c. should arrive, I shall probably take them back to England when I go, as they will not sell in this country. Bro. David Wilkin and the presiding elder in Philadelphia tried to get the Seer into the Book stores in that city, but they would not receive them. I believe they did succeed in getting a few left in one or two places, but it is very doubtful whether they would sell more than one or two dollars worth in a whole year. As to getting the Gentiles to buy our books, I am fully persuaded that it is a

Jan 30 1853
his day in Washington
O. G. Abbott

physical impossibility. I have preached some 15 times in this city, most of the time to nearly empty walls. To day being the Sabbath, I have ~~adver~~ had 3 appointments in the ^{Temperance} Hall; ~~two~~ men were present in the forenoon this was my whole ^{con}gregation; I set upon my seat and conversed with one of them an hour or two, and dismissed. In the afternoon there was one man and two boys who came about half an hour after the time. I conversed with them awhile and dismissed. When there has been a sufficient number out to deliver a lecture, the Lord has inspired me with greater power than I ever had before; but notwithstanding all this it appears to be in vain. Their prejudices run high I have advertized my appointments in all the principle papers in Washington besides publishing several hundred hand bills ~~I have~~ But the people will not come to hear. I expect therefore, to be obliged to abandon my meetings for the want of hearers, although I have a good respectable Hall, the rent of which I paid ~~quarter~~ in advance for three months. What can be done with the people here? They will neither purchase our books and papers, nor come to hear our preaching. I sometimes think of giving them a few hundred dollars worth of our printed works, and then I remember the word of the Lord which says, (in speaking of this printed word) as follows:— "Wherefore a commandment I give unto them, that they shall not give these things unto the church, neither unto the world" (Covenants sec. 26.) I am really more and more impressed that the Lord intends speedily to bring not only his people out from among the Gentiles, but the printed word also containing the fulness of his gospel; therefore I should not mourn much if the seven hundred dollars worth which I sent for should be sunk in the depths of the sea; it may be a better place for them ^{this nation} than among

P. S. I shall be most happy to carry out any counsel which you may have for me. O. P.

Extracts of a letter from Prof. ^{Wm} Washington, D. C.
to a friend in this city. —
March 4th, 1853.

Dear Bro. Young,

(I am happy to inform you that I am in the enjoyment of good health, and all things go as well with me as I could have expected. During the past two or three months, I have been, for the most of the time, shut up in a small room, (writing upon the subject of Marriage, & the Pre-existence of Man; And during the time I have delivered about twenty lectures in the Temperance Hall, upon almost every subject, pertaining to the kingdom of God; but few, however, have attended my lectures, & I have been obliged to close them for the want of hearers.

Not one soul have I found in Washington who seems to manifest the least disposition of enquiry. I think that I never enjoyed greater liberty of speech than I have in these lectures; the Spirit has rested upon me mightily, but the hearts of the people are sealed against the truth; and I marvel exceedingly at their unbelief & hardness of heart.) You will realize that I have been very diligent when you learn that (I have already published the first 6 Nos. of the Seer, and shall have the proof sheet of the seventh No. tomorrow. Every item yet admitted into the Seer has been new matter of my own composition. It is no small task to write 112 pages of printed matter as large as the Seer. I am confident that I will have to rest my mind a little, and exercise my body more in order to preserve my health.) My object has been to hurry out the whole twelve Nos. of the Seer as soon as possible in order ^{that} the evidences and arguments in relation to Plurality may be set before the minds of the people before other works shall appear in opposition, and also that they may be led to investigate while the subject is fresh before their minds. I am satisfied that

There is a church of. I must close for my sheet is full. from your bro. in Christ
Orson Pratt

(Washington is the place above all others for us to publish a Periodical.) If I had commenced this paper in Philadelphia, or N. York, not one quarter of the notice would have been taken of it, that there is now. Almost every paper in the union now seems to notice us: the whole press is thundering down upon us; and this has been better than several million of advertisements. I get letters constantly from all parts of the United States and British provinces, stating that they had seen in the public prints that we had started a paper at the capital and wishing to see a specimen copy. The Seer is doing great good among the scattered saints: half-hearted Mormons are awaking out of a deep sleep and are beginning to take fresh courage, and the great enquiry by letter is "how shall we get to Utah: many old apostates are also beginning to rub open their eyes, and becoming more favorable and really begin to think that "Mormonism" is true.

Wm E. Mc Lellin is a subscriber, and has also procured several other subscribers. Several of the prominent Apostates in Liverpool are saying that if they had seen the revelation before, they would not have left the church. Bro. Miles writes from Cincinnati stating that the Seer is doing great good ^{among the saints} there, and also among the world. My subscription list is gradually on the increase. I have now between four & five hundred subscribers in all. I still keep the Seer in five of the most prominent Book stores in Washington: but it is unsaleable or nearly so. (The Seer is not without ^{honor} save it be in its own native city, where it is published.)

The sale of the Seer is so limited, and the expense of board & printing so great, that I shall ~~lose~~ probably lose a few hundred dollars the first year, but should you consider it wisdom for me to continue the publication, it may in the course of a year or two cover expenses & perhaps more. (I have some

forty or fifty letters a week to attend to, which requires much of my time. My writing has kept me so confined, that I have scarcely set foot within the Capitol to hear Congressmen spout and blow. So far as I have information, I verily believe that Bro. J. M. Bernhisel has used his very best endeavors in behalf of Utah; and considering the prejudices and circumstances, I think he has succeeded far beyond that which could have been expected; and I also believe that if there is any man in our society who could command any respect from those in "high places," it is our worthy delegate. His age - his sincerity, his modesty - his gentlemanly deportment, are calculated to win the esteem of all discerning candid men. It is true, he has not made as many flaming speeches as some others would have done; but even this may have been a wise policy; for eloquent speeches in Congress are very sure to meet with opposition from some rival orator, or from the prejudiced party. Bro. Bernhisel's policy has been more unobserved, but perhaps surer in its results: ~~he has~~ when any matter, touching the welfare of the Territory, has been under consideration Bro. Bernhisel has been at his post, visiting the committees and ingratiating himself into their good graces, and has, no doubt, obtained many favors in this way, that would have been utterly denied, had they been sought in a more public way. } Upon the whole (Bro. Bernhisel is a man of integrity and wisdom, and his name will be had in honorable remembrance among the saints from generation to generation.) Bro. Bernhisel is the man who should be sent as our next delegation, unless your wisdom should otherwise

Direct. I wrote to you a lengthy letter on the subject
of the printing of the Book of Mormon, Cov., &c. which,
I presume, you have received. (I expect in April
or May to visit England to expedite their printing
& binding, I shall probably be absent about
two months. Bro. Orson Spencer & Houtz have
been expelled from Prussia. Bro. Carns from
from Germany - the four who went to the West
Indies were, about the same as expelled: they
are now laboring in the states. Bro.
Turpin will preach in the middle states and
will, during my absence to England, occasion-
ally call and take my letters from the post-
office at Washington, and forward the Ser
to those who may send for the back Nos., and
answer such letters as may be of importance. I have
counselled brother Farr to labor in the New England
states. Bro. Lambson in Michigan & Indiana.
They will no doubt forward to you an account of
their mission to the West Indies. I forward each
No. of the Ser to each of the first presidency & the
Twelve. I also send one thousand of each No. to
Mrs Sarah M. Pratt, to supply the calls in Utah.
I shall direct her in my next letter to pay one
tenth of them as tithing. I also wish that one tenth
of the calves which I have in Tooele valley may
be received as tithing. (I have been today to hear
the inaugural address of President Pierce. This
evening I shall accompany our Delegate to attend
a levee at the president's mansion. I expect
after I return from England to give Washington
another thorough trial) by placarding the town
(for I dislike the idea of giving up beat. I want
to establish a church here, if there is any thing fit

March 4 1853

has done in Washington

Bro. Young

St Louis, April 4th/53

Dear Bro. Young

In consequence of sickness, it has been judged wisdom ~~for~~ by myself and others of the elders for brother Elijah Thomas to have the privilege of returning home; the nature of his complaints you can ascertain by enquiring of him. Bro. Thomas was perfectly willing to do any thing required of him. When you learn the circumstances, if you think that we have erred in giving him this privilege I hope you will forgive us for so doing.

Yours in the Covenant.
Orsam Pratt.

Letter April 4/53
St Louis

Olson Pratt

to

P. Young -

In relation to C. Thomas mission

Prest. Brigham Young.

15- Wilton St., Liverpool, England.

May 30th, 1853.

May 30th 1853

Letter

Rec^d: July 22^d

Dear President Young,

ve

I have written several letters to you

since my departure from our delightful territory, but whether
I have been able to penetrate the mow of the mountains

your in safety is, with me, uncertain. I received

your letter, dated the last of October, requesting me to hasten the

printing of the church books for the valley circulation. In accord-

ance with the most

15 Wilton St., Liverpool, England.

May 30th, 1853.

Dear President Young,

I have written several letters to you

Since my departure from our delightful territory, but whether
I have been able to penetrate the snows of the mountains
and reach you in safety is, with me, uncertain. I received
your letter, dated the last of October, requesting me to hasten the
printing of the church books for the valley circulation. In accord-
ance with the instructions, I went last winter to New York and
made diligent enquiries of a number of printers & book binders, and
obtained their lowest estimates; and on comparing them with the
English prices, I was, at once, convinced, that the job could
be done in England to a better advantage than in America. With equal
qualities of paper the ~~printing~~ prices of printing in the two countries
do not differ materially, but in binding, the English prices are
far cheaper. For instance, the different estimates for binding 10000
Hymn books in N. York were as follows \$1400, \$1200, &
\$900. Nine hundred dollars was the very lowest price. But in
England we have made a contract for binding the 10000 for
\$485; thus making a saving, so far as the binding is concerned,
of \$415 on the hymn book alone. There will be another
saving of \$350 or \$400 on the 30000 books, arising from
the draw back on all books shipped from this country to foreign
parts. The duties of 10 per cent in America will not probably
amount to more than 7 or 800 dollars on the whole 30000
copies. The freight from England to St Louis is about the same as from

Letter
Rec'd July 22nd
May 30th 1853

W. D. Young

20

N. York to St. Louis. So upon the whole job, it is hoped that there will be a saving of some \$500 or \$600 by getting it done in this country.

The printing of the hymn book is now nearly finished. Estimates have been obtained from London and other places for the book of Mormon & book of Covenants. I have not yet decided where I shall get it done. These works will be forwarded to St. Louis in care of Horace S. Eldredge and will be ready to be sent over the plains next spring.

The 30000 books will weigh including the boxes between 8 and 9 Tons. It will require about ^{ten or} eleven waggons to take them to the valley, including provisions & luggage for the teamsters. All the cost of printing, binding, duties, and other expenses from this to St. Louis, I do not think, will exceed \$7000. It may be a few hundred dollars less.

I visited St. Louis in April where I waited some 3 weeks in order to see two brethren from Texas who I understood was willing to loan some money for the printing & binding of these books. I succeeded in loaning \$2000 from them, and gave them my notes \$500 is to be paid in one year and the other \$1500 ~~dollars~~ in two years. I presume these brethren will wait still longer if required, as they have other means and are comfortable. These \$2000 together with the \$1000 received by your order from Bro. Bernhisel ~~is~~ are all that I have as yet been able to loan for that purpose. If I should not be able to make any further loans, I shall necessarily have to get out very small editions of the books of Mormon & Covenants, that is, go as far as the \$3000 will permit. But as the plates of these 2 books are stereotyped it will not make any

very great difference. It ~~is~~^{is} true, that in both printing and binding, large editions will come proportionally cheaper than small ones. I do not feel authorized to call upon the Liverpool office for funds, not knowing but you may have other appropriations of greater and more pressing importance for those funds. I landed in Liverpool 2 days since, having a passage of only 10 days and 4 hours from N. York. Dr Bernhisel will, no doubt, have told you of my exertions to wake up the people of Washington. I labored hard to raise an excitement but could not do it: the people would not turn out to hear and after preaching some 18 or 20 times to the bare walls and empty benches with here & there a half-frightened-to-death stragler, I was obliged to give up my meetings for the want of hearers. I have not found even one solitary person in all Washington who has manifested the least spirit of candid enquiry to learn our doctrines. I have issued the first 9 Nos. of the Seer, and placed a plenty of each in 5 of the principal books stores in Washington. All these 5 stores sell from 30 to 40 cents worth of the Seers per month. Our other church works no sale at all. \$5 worth might possibly be sold in one year, but even this amount would be very uncertain.

The scattered saints throughout the U. S. and in the British Provinces are greatly revived up in their feelings, by reading the Seer. The subscription list, including St Louis & the Canadas, ~~are~~^{is} not far from 700.

I shall probably remain in England from 4 to 6 weeks and then return to Washington, where I expect to find some 3 or 400 letters awaiting my arrival. I shall answer such of them as needs answering and write & print the remaining Nos of the 1st Vol. of the Seer, and then travel & preach

in those places where the door seems to open, if there are any such places, until I receive further counsel. It is my intention, however, to give Washington another thorough trial, after they have rested awhile; for I dislike very much to give up beat.

I shall be most happy to receive any counsel from you which you may have to impart to me.

1 Shall I continue the Seer for another year? (yes)

Shall I seek to establish book agencies where there are apparently no prospects of sale? (use your judgement)

Shall I seek to convert empty rooms and benches to our faith? ~~see~~ (see by the spirit)

I think I can anticipate the answers to the last two questions, but I am somewhat at a loss whether to continue the Seer for another year or not.

You will perceive that, instead of making selections for the Seer, I have written the whole of the compositions myself which has been very laborious, and has occupied every moment of my time, so much so, that I have not had time, as yet, even to get another wife, but as I am now a little more at liberty, I may possibly, if circumstances should favor, hunt up some one, and thus give a practical demonstration of the doctrine of "Celestial Marriage." I may, perhaps, postpone this demonstration, until some future edition of the Treatise on that subject.

The present administration have made many changes of the officers in the different Territories, but I am not aware that any changes have been made in Utah.

I think that they are controlled by the power of God for the good of his people. Yours in the covenant Orson Pratt

Sept. 10/53.

O. Pratt

to
L. J. Young

Money matters &c.

Washington, D. C.
Sept. 10th, 1853.

Dear President Young,

After an absence from Washington of about three months and a half, during which I have been upon the ocean and in England, I am again at Gentile head-quarters, and in the enjoyment of good health.

Upon my arrival I found three letters from you, bearing the following dates: - March 30th, June 1st, & June 30th (No letters from you by the May mail.) The one of March 30th contained a power of Attorney, 2 orders from Dimick B. Huntington, A copy of a letter to Franklin Pierce, and a letter directed to the Hon. Luke Lea. Yesterday I presented the letter to the Indian Department, but did not inform them of the power of Attorney which I held. As Dr Bernhisel has received power of Attorney, & will most probably be here in a few weeks, I have concluded not to collect any funds, but turn over the whole business into his hands. I am pleased to learn that Dr Bernhisel will be returned as Delegate; for according to my judgment he has acted wisely, & prudently, and is as much respected as any Latter-Day-Saint can be by this wicked race of Gentiles.

Before I left for England I published the first nine numbers of the 1st vol. of the Seer. In publishing the sealing ordinance, I was not aware that there was anything in relation to it, that was to be kept any more secret, than

Sept: 10/53.

O. Pratt

to

B. Young

Dear

Money matters &c.

President Young,

After an absence from Washington

Washington, D. C.

Sept. 10th, 1853.

the subject of Plurality of Wives; and being authorized to publish. the latter, I supposed that the sealing ordinance was so closely connected with it, that it was right to publish it. I am not aware that I have ever received any injunctions of secrecy in regard to the method of marriage any more than the marriage itself: if you consider that I have erred in this thing, be assured that it was an error of ignorance, and I hope that I may be pardoned for this ignorance. I wish to do right, and often feel to mourn that I have not more of the Spirit to direct me. The article on Celestial Marriage will be closed in the 12th No. I have occupied about 8 pages of each No. with it; and have endeavored ~~and endeavored~~ to set forth the arguments in clearness & simplicity; but being obliged to break up new ground without the assistance of previous Authors, I have not arranged the arguments as systematically as I should do were I to rewrite ^{upon} the same subject. You are well aware of the difficulties which attend the presentation, for the first time, of so delicate a subject before the public. I cannot but flatter myself, therefore, that all errors, lack of wisdom, and other imperfections manifested in the article, will be overlooked and generously pardoned. I am in hopes to be able to forward to you the 10th, 11th, & 12th Nos. of the Seer by the November mail.

I have made arrangements in England for the printing and binding of 10000 Hymn books, 3000 books of Mormon, and 3000 books of Covenants; and have left money with S. W. Richards to pay the expenses of the same; I have also directed him to keep an accurate account of all other contingent expenses attending them, such as making boxes, packing, cartage, &c., &c., which

he will pay from the monies I left in his hands. I have also directed him to ship them all to Horace S. Eldredge of St Louis. I shall endeavor to ~~have money~~ funds in the hands of brother Eldredge to pay the freight from Liverpool to St Louis, also to pay the duties, cartage, storage, &c, at St Louis. All of this will swallow up the ^{most part of the} 3000 dollars of funds which has been in my hands, ^{it may take still more} namely the \$1000 which Dr Bernhisel let me have by your order; the \$2000 which I borrowed last spring of two Texas brethren on their way to ~~St Louis~~ the valley and whom I met at St Louis: one of these brethren hold my note for \$500 payable next spring; and the other, for \$1500 payable one year from next spring: I directed them to present the notes to you, when due, & you would settle them; I think I have written to you in former letters, concerning the borrowing of this money. The binding is so much cheaper in England than in the States, that I think there will be something saved notwithstanding the duties, by getting the job done in England. The weight of the books, including that of the boxes, will be from three and a half to four tons; Including the weight of the provisions and baggage of the drivers, it will require 4 strong waggons which will carry something over a ton each to convey them over the plains. Where shall funds come from to purchase these waggons & teams? ~~What~~ If they are not forwarded next spring the bill of Storage will be pretty heavy. All the public funds I have on hand with the exception of that which must be paid out for duties &c. is only about \$20 tithing. I have not as yet called on the office at Liverpool for the first ^{of public funds,} farthing, but have borrowed money to pay my travelling expences, board, printing, &c. I have \$1000 ~~of~~ of borrowed money which I

must pay to Dr Bernhisel, one half next spring, and one half the spring following, besides several hundred in other places, but I am in hopes that through the increase of the ~~stock~~ cattle which I sent to the valley and through the sale of my own writings to meet every debt without calling on the public funds in Liverpool or elsewhere.

I have purchased from the Liverpool office, and already paid for upwards of seven hundred dollars worth of books, pamphlets, &c, intended for sale in the U. S. They were packed in two cases and shipped on board the "Strepid" for New York on the 2nd day of November 1852. The ship was wrecked off the coast of Ireland and put in for repairs with a loss of part of her cargo. The books are said to be not damaged, but they are charged in proportion to the rest of the cargo for the damages sustained in the disaster; this charge or average bond is \$141,88 besides the duties; this ^{\$141,88} loss in consequence of the books not being insured. The books did not arrive till the last of spring, and they are now retained in the custom house with over \$200 charges on them. I shall pay the charges & take them out; but they will not sell to the world; I may be able to dispose of now & then one to the brethren who are scattered through the states: this loss comes quite heavy on me, considering my circumstances. In your letter of the 30th of June, you request me to apply all the avails which may arise from the disposal of your publications to swell the funds of the P. Emigrating Com. In reply, I would beg leave to state that I have ordered all of

[Sep 10 1853]

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your publications to be shipped ^{from Liverpool} for St Louis as before stated, and consequently I have not had any of your publications on hand for sale; neither could I sell them, if I had them; indeed, I shall in all probability have to bring those I purchased last fall from the Liverpool office to the valley, or else leave ~~them stored~~ the most part of them stored for years somewhere in this country. I have tried the volume entitled A Pratt's Works, and some few of the books of Mormon in Washington, and though placed in one of the principle Book stores, ~~it~~ was not even one single vol. ^{was} sold, yet they were on sale for weeks. I finally took them away and made a present ^{of some of them} to some of my acquaintances or relatives at a distance. There is no more ^{prospects in} ~~use to~~ offering ^{for sale} our publications in the eastern cities, than there would be in offering so many cobble stones. There must be a revolution or change of some kind among this nation, before they will buy our works.

As soon as I get my books from the custom house, I will, according to your order, supply Mr John L. Sibley - the Librarian at Harvard University, with a copy of such works as I may have; and will write to S. W. Richards to supply such as I may not have. I do not think that the early volumes of the Star and other church periodicals, can be easily obtained for that purpose.

With regard to the Solar Microscope, I am satisfied that the instrument maker from whom I purchased the microscope which is already in the valley, will be able

6 to furnish a more excellent instrument than any who are in the States: the office at Liverpool has his name and address in London. I think his name is Ross. You will perceive by reference to a large volume on the "Microscope" in Utah Library that the maker of that instrument has introduced important discoveries on the formation of the Microscope which are highly spoken of. I will write to S. W. Richards to procure from him or from some of the other London instrument Makers, the most superior one that can be found, and forward the same to you.

Elder Orson Spencer was in the States last spring; I have not heard from him since, I suppose he has returned home. I have in my possession a large letter for him, mailed June 1st at S. L. City.

About 30 have lately been baptized by a young Elder in the State of Arkansas. ~~If I~~

If I can procure a sufficient number of subscribers, I expect to continue the Seer for another year.

The exchange papers at the office of the "Deseret News," will give you the general news of the day; therefore it is not necessary for me to write it.

I have not altered the fictitious names in the book of Covenants for the original ones, as it would interfere ^{too much} with the stereotype plates.

I should be happy to receive counsel from you upon any subject, ~~and shall~~ and trust that I shall not be forgotten in your prayers, and in the prayers of the Council. Yours in the gospel Covenant
To President B. Young. Orson Pratt

Washington D. C.

Oct. 13th 1853.

Dear Bro. Young:

I send you a bill of the books, pamphlets, and periodicals which I have sent, by your order, to Mr John L. Sibley, Assistant Librarian at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Book of Mormon, roan	\$ 1, 00
Book of Doc. & Cov., roan	.95
Hymn Book, roan	.50
Vol 6 th Times & Seasons, half calf	2, 00
O. Pratt's Works, half calf	1, 50
Vol. 11 th Millennial Star, half calf	2, 00
Vol. 13 th Millennial Star, 24 Nos., unbound	1, 50
Vol. 14 th Millennial Star, 37 Nos., unbound	1, 50
Supplements to Millennial Star, vol 14 th	.25
Spencer's Letters, Cloth.	.50
Voice of Warning, Cloth	.50
Government of God	.50
Pearl of Great Price	.30
One year in Scandinavia	.10
Italian Mission	.10
Truth for the Mormons	.25
Voice of Joseph	.10
Only Way to be Saved	.05
(Turn Over)	<hr/> \$ 13.60

Amount Brought forward	\$ 13,60
1 st & 2 nd Volumes of the Seer	\$ 2,00
Postage prepaid on the above	1,60
Placed to your account...	<u>\$ 17,20</u>

I posted the above today; I shall continue to send to him the Seer according to your directions; also such other of our works as I may be able to procure from time to time.

I have closed the article on Celestial Marriage in the 12th No. of first Vol. I intend in the second Vol. to elucidate principles more easily to be understood. I humbly trust that I may have your prayers & the assistance of the spirit that my writings may be of service to mankind.

Yours in the Covenant

Orson Pratt

Oct 13th 1853.
 Orson Pratt
 27 First Meeting,
 Hall of Church & near
 to Harvard University
 Library.

Oct 13th 1853.

Orson Pratt
to F. M. Young,
Bill of books &c sent
to Harvard University
Library.

Orson Pratt

the Covenant

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& the assistance of the

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the article on Celestial

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continue to send to him

\$ 17.20

1.60

\$ 2.00

\$ 13.60

ward

Washington D. C.

Nov. 4th, 1853.

Dear Bro. Young,

I have received your letter of Sept. 1st & am sorry to learn of the Indian difficulties; but I am in hopes that they will not amount to any thing very serious. I am glad to learn that you intend enclosing the city with a wall for it will be of great benefit to us in case of any future difficulties. It will be a great & tedious work to accomplish, but union & perseverance will enable the saints to do anything that is necessary. I am happy to learn that you have appointed Dr Bernhisel as the Delegate; for I am persuaded that he has used his utmost endeavors to do us good, and also he has learned by past experience many things that would give him the advantage over one that was entirely fresh. I prayed earnestly, many times after you intimated to me that perhaps I might be appointed, that if the Lord saw that there was any other ^{way} in which I could be an instrument in doing more good, that he would put it into your heart to appoint some one else. Not but what I was perfectly willing to act in that sphere, if it was where the Lord wanted me. But I do not seek after worldly honor and worldly gain, only so far as the Lord may see proper to bestow the same as a blessing, and as a medium through which I can do good. Dr Bernhisel was highly respected so far as any man in this church could be, & I believe that he will exert himself to do us good. I understand that he arrived in the east about one month ago, but I have received no letter from him as yet.

I have received a letter from S. W. Richards stating that the 10,000 Hymn books were ready and packed for shipping. I suppose that the 3000 each of the other 2 books will be ready in the course of the winter. I have not drawn on the Liverpool office for a farthing for any purpose.

but I do not know but I shall be obliged to avail myself of your kind offer, and borrow for a short time a little means to help me along; if I can conveniently get along without, I shall ^{be} happy to do so.

My propositions for printing the second volume of the Seer have been before the public nearly 2 months, during which time ^{only} about 20 of the old subscribers have renewed their subscriptions for another year. This is rather discouraging, but still I hope for better things. The prejudice of this nation is very great, even the exchange papers have all stopped coming with the exception of one or two. Brothers Alondus D. L. Buckland and Mitchell have found the prejudice so great in the British Provinces that they have quit them and come to the states Bro. Mitchell the last news was in Ohio, and Bro. Buckland in St. Louis. Brother Aaron F. Farr was a few weeks since in Philadelphia and thought of going for a short time into N. Jersey. He has been received very coldly wherever he has gone. Bro. Jesse Turpin was in Virginia with his family & wrote that he thought of going to Arkansas. Bro. James Brown is in Indiana. I think he meets with some little success, has baptized a few. Bro. Lambson was, the last I heard in Michigan, but I cannot learn that many have received his testimony. The excitement on the introduction of Celestial Marriage has mostly subsided, and sunk down into a bitter, cold, deadly, silent hatred, looking upon the saints as the most degraded, contemptible, beastly creatures, that, in their estimation, disgrace the earth. Their minds are made up upon popular rumour, and news paper slander, for our works they do not read. Those few who have read the Seer seem to be mad to think that they cannot find the least item of testimony against the Patriarchal order of Marriage, and against what they pretend to consider so beastly a practice. This is, as near as I can in a few words describe, the present condition

of this nation, so far as my observation goes: they are determined to go to hell with their eyes & ears closed.

The 12th No. of the 1st Volume of ^{the} Seer was sent out about a week ago.

In the last but one of your letters, you state that ~~there are many~~ in some of the Seers, there are many points urged by me in my reasoning "that are not Sound Doctrine, and will not be so received by the Saints." This may be the case, for I am liable to err. Whatever those points may be, I hope that the saints may not receive them; I do not wish any of the saints either in Utah or abroad in the earth to receive unsound doctrine from my pen, or from my mouth. In connection with this letter, I forward to you an article for the "Deseret News" which, if you think ^{it} would be of any benefit to publish, I am willing should go before the public. By an item dropped in a letter from an individual in the valley, I am led to conclude that the argument I have used to sustain the Unity and Plurality of God in an article headed "The Pre-Existence of Man", is not received as sound Doctrine. I have there argued that each of the saints who entered into the fulness of Celestial glory, and became Gods, would receive a fulness of all truth as promised in the book of covenants, and that they would be, as the vision states, "equal in power, and in might, and in Dominion;" and that the Unity, Eternity, and Omnipresence of God, consisted in the oneness, ~~and~~ Eternity, and Omnipresence of the attributes, such as "the fulness of Truth," light, love, wisdom, & knowledge, dwelling in countless numbers of tabernacles in numberless worlds; and that the oneness of these attributes is what is called in both ancient & modern revelations, the One God besides whom there is none other God neither before Him neither shall there be any after Him. I have still further argued that the Plurality of Gods only had reference to

the number of persons or tabernacles wherein this one
 God, or in other words, the fulness of these attributes dwells.
 These arguments, and these alone, most perfectly ~~silenced~~
 and effectually reconcile the doctrines of ^{the} Unity,
 Plurality, ~~and~~ Eternity, ~~of God~~ and Omnipresence
 of God as set forth so abundantly and clearly
 in ~~the~~ both ancient & modern revelations; without these
 arguments I have not the most distant idea how
 to reconcile them; without these arguments I could
 not stand one moment before arguments brought
 by our opponents: without these arguments, it would
 be entirely in vain for me to try & enlighten the world
 upon this subject by reason: I could only bear my
 testimony that there was but one God as clearly declared
 in our revelations, & that there ~~was~~ ^{were} many Gods as
 asserted in the same revelations, and there I should
 have to leave it, as a stumbling block before the world
 and as a stumbling block before many that ^{are} honest,
 though uninformed. It is true, when I was in Utah
 I heard Elder Kimball advance the idea that all Gods
 would be for ever progressing in knowledge, but then
 I supposed that it was merely thrown out, without
 much consideration, as a mere conjecture, and was not
 aware, that it was his real permanent & settled views
 upon this subject, neither can I persuade myself,
 even now, that minds accustomed to severe thought
 and meditation as yours have been these many years,
 can, after due reflection, and reading the vast number of
 revelations ^{which} seem most clearly to teach differently, still
 believe in a doctrine which appears to be so contrary to what
 is revealed. It is not through self-will or stubbornness
 that I have published what I have upon this subject.
 I have published, whether right or wrong, what I verily

and most sincerely believed to be the true doctrine revealed
~~Had I known~~ I have published the only arguments which
I can discover to sustain ^{that} ~~such~~ doctrine against the attacks
of the world. If this be one of the many points of Doc-
trine urged by me, which you consider unsound, I am
willing, and feel it my duty, to let my tongue & pen be
silent upon this subject hereafter, until the Lord shall
show you, & through you, the church, ~~what~~ a still greater
fulness of information, that we may be corrected in our
errors & instructed more perfectly in the right way. I am
also still willing to make any satisfaction that you or the
saints may require of me. And if I am willing to do this,
I hope that you will grant me as an individual the privi-
lege of believing my present views, and that you will not
require me to teach others in the temple or in any other
place that which I do not & cannot ^{without more light} believe in regard
to the eternal progression of all the Gods in knowledge.
I do not ask any one else to believe as I do upon this subject.
I will ~~not~~ use any influence either in public or in private, verbal-
ly or by writing to make the ^{people} believe differently from what
you do. I desire that you & all the saints will forgive me
for having published any thing which is in the least derogatory
to your settled views: and had I been persuaded that you
did in reality entertain permanent views contrary to what I
have published, I should have kept my views away from
the public; for it is not my prerogative to teach publicly
that which I know the president considers to be unsound.
It may be that this is not one of the unsound points to which
you refer, although it has been thus stated to me in a
letter. The 1st vol. of the Seer has been mostly occu-
pied ~~I shall endeavor~~ in defending the Plurality &
Unity of God, and the Plurality of Wives. I have
closed these subjects, and I will endeavor to comply

with your suggestions in my future Nos. to publish and reason upon other subjects more easily comprehended and not quite so much opposed to the prejudices of the people. Any suggestions you can make to me in regard to the subject matter, or any principles which you judge would be calculated to do the most good, I should be most happy to receive from you.

In the bonds of the Covenant

I subscribe myself

your humble servant,

Olson Pratt

P. S. By a close and careful re-examination of the articles published in the Seer, I find that in treating upon the Pre-Existence of Man, I have quoted extensively from the new translation of the Bible & the book of Abraham. These quotations are in direct opposition to what I have heard Elder Kimball teach; they were not brought forward, however, to prove a different doctrine from what he taught; but the quotations were made as being evidences of another subject, foreign from that, and upon which I am not aware that there is any differences in our views. I will here observe, however, that my own individual belief is in accordance with those quotations; and with those revelations before me I do not see any possible way for me to believe otherwise than that ~~man~~ the man's body was made out of the ground, and that a rib was extracted from his body in the formation of Eve; but as brother Kimball, ^{and perhaps others} teaches, as appears to me, somewhat differently, I do not feel disposed to publicly teach different, though my own sentiments upon that subject are directly the reverse.

O. P.

For the Deseret News.

I have been informed by letter from our Beloved President Young, that in several of the Seers, ~~I have~~ "there are many points" urged by me ~~that~~ in my reasoning, "that are not Sound Doctrine, and will not be so received by the Saints." What those points are is not explained in the letter. "This is, therefore, to acknowledge my weakness & liability to err, without the immediate inspiration of the Holy Ghost which leads into all truth. How great is the weakness of man! and how little can his teachings or writings be depended upon without revelation from the great fountain of truth! I do most earnestly hope that the Saints throughout the world will reject every unsound doctrine which they may discover in the "Seer" or in any of my writings. Whatever may come in contact with the settled & permanent views of our president, should be laid aside as the emanations of erring human wisdom. God has appointed him as our president, and it is his province to correct us; and we should sustain him by our faith and prayers, that God may, by revelation, ~~reveal~~ unfold unto us, in due time, ~~the~~ the truth of all things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come;" for without revelation human wisdom will err.

With the most ~~earnest~~ anxious desire for the welfare of the saints, I subscribe myself their most humble, though erring Servant.

Orson Pratt.

Nov. 4th 1853.

Professor Orson Pratt
to
President W. P. Young

Doctrine &c.

Dec. 13/53.

Wm. B. Young

Just B. Young

Book 10 &c

Washington City, D. C.
December 13th 1853.

Dear Bro. Young:

Yours of the 1st of Nov. is at hand, requesting that the books, designed for the valley, should be insured from Liverpool to St. Louis. I have forwarded instructions to S. W. Richards to this effect. He will, no doubt, see this attended to. I have also requested him to forward to me a full account of all the expense, attending the printing, binding, cartage, shipping, freight, insurance, &c. on that side of the water: to this, I will add the duties and other expenses to St. Louis. And as early as I can ascertain all these items, I will forward the same to you by letter. It has been concluded to send to the valley ~~now~~ this present season 5000 Books of Mormon, & 5000 books of Covenants; & 10000 Hymn books. Should you want 5000 more of each of the first two works, they can, with a few months notice, be forth-coming, as they are stereotyped. I shall forward to Horace S. Eldredge a check of several hundred dollars to pay duties & other expenses on the books; as my publishing business, and the numerous letters which are coming in,

will not permit of my going to St Louis to attend to these things myself. I have now between two and three hundred subscribers for the 2nd vol of the Seer, and the subscription list gradually increasing. The saints throughout the states are beginning to send for the various publications which I have on hand, and there seems to be an increasing desire among them to gather up to Utah. Some baptisms are taking place in various parts. In Texas the Elders are doing some good. Elder James Brown has baptized quite a number in Indiana. But in most of places there is an deadly hatred against us.

I am now getting the Seer published in Baltimore: it comes some cheaper. All my correspondence is at Washington, and the Seer goes out as if published in Washington.

I have on hand several hundred dollars worth of various publications of the saints, to supply demands from all parts of the States: but a few have yet been ordered. But since sending out to the various subscribers some 12 or 1500 circulars, containing catalogues, prices, & rates of postage of these works, the demand seems to be increasing.

I feel very anxious to have a good house built on the lot, fronting the tabernacle; but I can give no encouragement, that I shall be able to raise the means for that purpose very soon. And I dare not

ask any one to advance the means, and wait upon me
a few years, lest I should not be able to meet my
engagements. And furthermore, I feel anxious to keep out
of debt, that my hands may be as free as possible. Having
no farm, nor no other ~~means~~ income in Utah, I sent
on last season a few cattle, hoping that the increase of
the same might supply some of the more immediate
necessities of my family. It may be that the sale of
my writings, will, in time, furnish me with means to
build a house. I make these observations, because I
did not know, but you were expecting me to send means
to build with; and I did not want you disappointed.
John H. Donnellon in the British army, whom
you wrote to me about some time ago, has lately pro-
cured means from ^{some few of} the saints by which he will be
released in a few days. He expresses, by letter, much
joy, in the prospect of being free.

My whole heart rejoices in the work
which you have given me to do in these eastern
lands. And I feel like doing with all my might,
that I may receive the reward of a faithful laborer.
The press is a powerful engine, and I want to keep
my pen busy for the benefit of this nation and others,
who may wish to inform themselves of the doctrines of
the Saints.

Dr. J. M. Bannister is well & feels well. It gave me
great joy to meet with him. The face of a saint is a
rarity in this country. A donation of a box of Bibles, &c.

has been sent to my care at Washington, for you.
It was sent by the N. Y. Bible Society. It will be forward-
ed to H. S. Eldredge, with a request for him to see it
forwarded to Utah.

I believe I mentioned in some of my
former letters that the history & genealogy of my ances-
tors ~~was~~ ^{were} in the course of preparation for publishing. This
work is being got up by my kindred, many of whom
have occupied conspicuous stations in the government.
The names, dates of Marriages, births, & deaths of several
thousands of both the living and the dead have already
been collected: all of whom descended from my ancestor
Lieut. William Pratt, who formed the first settle-
ment where now stands the city of Hartford, Conn.
He came over from England with the pilgrims who
fled from persecution to the wilderness of America.
He was the first judge of the Court in New London
District and a member of the Legislature some
25 or thirty sessions. I am the seventh generation
from him. One of my kindred of the Pratt family
is now a member of the house at Washington
from Conn. Another of them namely Zadock Pratt
was a member of the House from New York, but a
short time since. It gives me great joy to get the
names of so many thousands of my kindred who are
dead, hoping that something may be done for them
in the temple in a day to come. Also by this history
I will get the present address of many hundred families of them
by which means I hope to benefit them.
Yours in the Covenant. O. Pratt.